



From a Drawing by Dean Bolcott

# BULLETIN

Issued for the Information of Members of the

## NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

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## TIME HAS COME TO SETTLE NATIONAL PARKS STATUS

*Legislative Summary of the Approaching Session of Congress, Showing what it may Hold in Store for Our National Parks System, Both in Danger and Opportunity*

### WATER POWER DECISION

**The Pretensions of Water Power Interests to Special Privileges Within the Forthcoming Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park Denied by Commission—An Invaluable Precedent Established**

On June 15 last, the Federal Power Commission, consisting of Secretaries Work, Wallace and Weeks, rejected the filings of the Los Angeles City Government in the Tehipite Valley and Kings River Canyon, and of the San Joaquin Light and Power Company in the Kings River Canyon.

#### "TO DEDICATE TO NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES"

The minutes of the meeting read:

"In view of the improbability of any development of the projects proposed for many years to come, of the lack of any necessity of the City (Los Angeles) going to the Kings River as a source of energy supply, and of the embarrassment of the National Parks Service arising from the existence of claims within an area which it is desired to dedicate to National Park purposes, it was recommended that the application be rejected."

In formally rejecting these applications, the Commission gave as one of its reasons "that all of said developments are located in whole or in part within the proposed extension of the Sequoia National Park."

Rejection on these grounds, by a Commission consisting of the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture and War, establishes a precedent of the utmost importance.

#### ABOLISH THE DOUBLE STATUS!

The decision makes futile the Pierce Amendment to the Jones-Esch amendment of 1920 to the Water Power Act, with which, their desires fixed upon the coming Roosevelt-Sequoia Park, the water power companies forced a division of National Parks into two classes, present and future; its future parks to be subject to water power at the option of the Commission.

The time has come, therefore, to undo that outrage upon National Parks Conservation, the National Policy, and the sentiment of the people.

Let new National Parks be replaced at once on the same legal status as existing National Parks.

HERE is a brief summary of the National Parks situation as it appears two months before the convening of the Sixty-Eighth Congress:

#### Gift Bills to Create National Parks of Less than National Scenic Standards

Several bills to create local National Parks below the standard quality are expected to be introduced into the next Congress. These bills will offer to "give" the Nation areas which enclose neither scenery of national importance nor sufficient area for fitting administration and the accommodation of park visitors. One such "national park" will open the door to scores of others, inviting wide competition for little local National Parks.

We must permit no such precedent. National Park standards must not be lowered. Those from whose minds the local interest hides the national view must learn or yield. Neither must the name be prostituted to the advertisement of localities. Nor will the nation stand for the National Park Pork Barrel that inevitably will follow the opening of the System to local competition.

#### Walsh Bill for the Damming of Yellowstone Lake

The bill that died with the Sixty-Seventh Congress was the last of three similar Walsh bills, not one of which got past the Senate Irrigation Committee. Intimations reach us that Senator Walsh will introduce his fourth bill into the new Congress in December.

If he does, it will meet a very wide and growing popular opposition in Montana, and in Congress will face the opposition of the present Administration just as his first bill faced the opposition of the Wilson Administration.

In April last, Secretary Work defined National Parks as spots "untouched by the inroads of modern civilization." In June at the formal opening of Yellowstone National Park, Dr. John Wesley Hill officially pledged the Administration to a "fixed policy" of National Parks protection from which it "would not be swerved by a hairbreadth." In July President Harding stated publicly in Yellowstone that "commercialism will never be tolerated here so long as I have the power to prevent it." In August President Coolidge announced that he would maintain the Harding policies.

The outlook for the damming of Yellowstone Lake can not seem promising even to the most ardent of its remaining supporters.

## **St. Mary Lake Project to Back a Reservoir Ten Miles Into Glacier National Park**

This threatened onslaught upon National Parks conservation has not yet come from under cover. Senator Walsh is pledged publicly to it, but it is not known whether he will personally introduce the bill. If it comes, it will meet the same popular opposition in Montana and throughout the Nation, and the same Administration opposition in Congress, that faces the fourth Walsh bill.

Under the terms of the international treaty three quarters of the Glacier National Park water proposed to be impounded will be used in Canada.

### **Barbour Bill for the Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park**

On June 15 last, the Federal Water Power Commission formally denied the application made by the Los Angeles City Government and others for reservoir sites in the Tehipite Valley and Kings River Canyon on the ground that these areas were needed for the proposed Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park. This destroys the contention upon which Los Angeles founded her proposed water-power amendment to the Barbour bill of the last Congress.

The outlook is bright for the creation, at the next session, of a new National Park of unexcelled splendor.

### **Repeal of the Pierce Amendment**

The Administration has taken no step yet toward a bill to restore National Parks to uniform legal status. At present there are two classes of National Parks: those (the existing parks) which are subject only to the authority of Congress, and those (all future parks) in which the Water Power Commission may locate reservoirs and power works without permission of Congress.

This dual classification was forced into the law in 1920 by five western water power companies. Its purpose was to get water power into the proposed Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park, an issue which passed out of existence with the Water Power Commission's decision of June 15 last.

Our National Parks should be restored to uniform status with the least delay possible. It can be done simply by eliding the four words which the interests forced into the 1920 amendment to the Water Power Act.

### **The Time Has Come to Clean House**

The bill to accomplish this should also restore to Congress the exclusive power to permit prospecting, grazing and other commercial enterprises granted at various times in certain National Parks to the Secretary of the Interior, who should be relieved of this grave responsibility.

While we are about it, let us clear away all scars of commercial invasion and compromise in past years and again invest our National Parks system with the clean status in law which it possessed originally and which it now possesses in the purposes of the American people.

### **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

The Stockton (California) Record thus quotes Director Stephen T. Mather of the National Park Service:

"The city of Stockton did a wonderful thing this year in planting eleven miles of trees along the Lincoln Highway. Now, do you want to do something even finer? Run a motor caravan up to Yosemite over the Big Oak Flat road. When you get into that beautiful timber country outside the park lines, stop your machines and let each Stockton man get out and select one of those fine growing trees. Then, before the timber interests cut it, let him go and buy it and donate it to posterity."

## **WILL STUDY PARKS ABROAD**

### **Our Representative Carries the Gospel of Conservation and Education to European Nations**

A number of nations having expressed lively interest in our National Parks System with the avowed purpose of creating National Parks of their own after the model of ours, this Association has undertaken a canvass of the situation throughout the world.

It is highly desirable that these new Park systems should be firmly founded on the principle of complete conservation. Like ours, doubtless, they will be recreational.

Like ours, they should particularly serve the good purposes of popular education and science.

### **Our System the World's Model**

Before the great war, inquiries concerning the American National Parks System were made in this country by Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and others. During the war, Belgium and France continued their investigations. Since the war, King Albert has given Belgium a royal forest for a National Park, and further inquiries have arrived from Holland, one or more of the new nations, Australia, and several sub-tropical countries.

During last summer a representative of the Japanese Interior Department, Dr. Tsuyosha Tamura, visited our National Parks and Canada's, and is now studying various park problems elsewhere. He suggests Fuji Yama for one of Japan's future National Parks.

There is no formal National Park movement in Great Britain, but the subject is interesting many. Dr. John Mason Clarke represented the National Parks Association at the September meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and will bring news.

### **To Equip the World for Nature Conservation**

This admirable world movement inspired by the example of the United States should have a common purpose.

On September 22, Ansel F. Hall sailed for an extended journey through European countries in the interest of the American Association of Museums. He will also represent the National Parks Association. In ultimate purposes these two organizations are closely sympathetic, National Parks being in a real sense National Museums.

Mr. Hall will study the National Park movements, both governmental and popular, already inaugurated in the countries which he visits; he will present to their promoters excellent reasons for completely conserving their proposed National Park systems; and he will place our Association in intimate communication with the individuals and organizations, public and private, which are behind National Park projects in Europe.

### **Missioner of Conservation**

He will also suggest the formation of organizations of the people with purposes similar to those of our own, and those of the new National Parks Association of Canada.

Mr. Hall is well adapted by temperament, education and experience for his dual mission. On graduation from the University of California, he became a ranger in the Sequoia National Park, and later the Naturalist in Yosemite. There, he developed an admirable museum, and organized an effective nature guide system supplemented by popular lectures.

About a year ago the place of Park Naturalist was created for him, giving him charge of museum and educational development throughout the System.

Mr. Hall is on leave of absence from the Interior Department during his dual mission abroad.

# ENTER: NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

*Organized to Defend Canadian National Parks, and Already Fighting Water Power Invaders*

THE National Parks Association of Canada, with purposes similar to our own, was organized in August and starts life with a water power fight on its hands. Like ours, it represents the protest of the people against the attempts of industrial interests to turn to their own profit national reservations created for public use.

Canada has an excellent National Parks System conserving large and small areas, some of which contain scenery of great magnificence. Its conservation, unlike ours, is not consistent. The Canadian Rocky Mountain Park, for example, is conserved against water power but not against mining. Others are open to water power and irrigation but closed to other commercial uses.

## Awakening of the People

During the last decade, however, the Canadian people have waked up to their System's possibilities. The very rapid recent development of our own System called Canadian attention to its fully conserved status, and threats of the invasion of their own parks aroused anxiety.

This first found voice three years ago, when ranching interests in Alberta sought to dam Waterton Lake in the Waterton Lakes Park, which adjoins our Glacier National Park on the north. Vigorous protests were made by individuals and local organizations at that time.

The Waterton Lakes project did not prosper against opposition, but it did not die. It has flared up from time to time, and its continued menace, together with the example of our own successful defense of our National Parks, promoted wide interest in park conservation.

## Men of Science Take a Hand

A couple of years ago, Canadian scientists and educators espoused the cause of park conservation, but little headway was made. But universities became interested, and various public-spirited organizations discussed the question.

Recently, a determined promotion to secure water-power sites in beautiful Spray Lakes Valley south of Banff fanned this apprehension into alarm.

This was the situation last spring when the international American Association for the Advancement of Science appealed to Canada and the United States to conserve both National Park Systems after a common plan in the interest of science and education. That impressive call for an all-North American exposition of the original wilderness crystallized alarm into determination. The Royal Society of Canada entered the field. Complete conservation became a fighting cause.

The organization which translated this sentiment into practical action was the influential Alpine Club of Canada, which has twenty branches from ocean to ocean. Early in the summer it issued invitations widely to a discussion to follow its annual meeting in camp near Lake Louise on August 2.

## Alpine Club Leads the Way

At this meeting, the following resolution, offered by Sir James Outram and A. B. Mackay, both of Calgary, in the region threatened, was unanimously passed:

"Resolved, That this meeting of the Alpine Club of Canada declares itself in favor of the immediate formation of a National Parks Association for Canada whose objects shall be the conservation of the Canadian National Parks for scientific, recreational and scenic purposes."

A general meeting was held immediately following the club meeting, at which the National Parks Association of Canada was promptly created and organized.

## New Association Takes the Field

Its first action, taken on the spot, was a strong letter of protest to the Minister of the Interior against the proposed use of the Spray Lakes for power reservoirs.

It also addressed the Dominion Government, urging "that all matters concerning the alienation of natural resources within the National Parks be laid before Parliament so that the people of Canada may be heard through their representatives."

The following Directors were elected:

Montreal: Dr. J. W. A. Hickson, and Dr. F. D. Adams, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science of McGill University.

Ottawa: Lieutenant-Colonel Hanbury Williams.

Toronto: Professor R. B. Thompson of Toronto University, Chairman of the National Parks Conservation Committee of the Royal Society of Canada.

Winnipeg: Honorable F. M. Black, Treasurer of the Province of Manitoba, and Colonel F. C. Bell of Manitoba University.

Saskatoon: Andrew S. Sibbald, Honorary Treasurer of the Alpine Club of Canada.

Regina: H. E. Sampson, K. C.

Calgary: Major W. J. S. Walker and T. B. Moffett.

Vancouver: Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Foster, President of the Alpine Club of Canada, and Mrs. J. W. Henshaw.

Victoria: Arthur O. Wheeler, Director of the Alpine Club of Canada.

Andrew S. Sibbald, Box 1264, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, was elected Secretary.

## We Extend Our Greetings

It is gratifying to learn that, reversing our own experience, the quickest support came from the Province which will profit most by the spoliation of the National Parks. British Columbia is responding promptly. Already the Automobile Association and the Rotary, Kiwanis, Canadian, Women's Canadian, Lions and Giros Club of the city of Vancouver have pledged their hearty support.

So does the National Parks Association of the United States, adding its whole-hearted greetings and best wishes. And so, also, will the people of the United States.

## MR. CAMERON DISCOVERS TRUTH

"I have found," says Senator Ralph Cameron of Arizona, "that if you tell people that you are a Senator, they will tell you only what they think will please you."

So, in his summer journeyings through the country, he travelled incog. and gathered much surprising and valuable information.

Senator Cameron puts his finger plumb on the very weakest spot in Congress. No one tells Senators and Representatives unpleasant truths; in fact, few besides politicians tell them anything, except those fellows who want something, and they talk long and often. So Congressional representatives advocate what they guess the people want, and the guessing of some of them is pretty poor.



# GIFT-PARKS THE COMING NATIONAL PARK DANGER

*Local Enterprise Threatens the World Fame of Our Exposition of American Scenic Supremacy*

**A** DANGER which does not necessarily involve nature conservation, but nevertheless strikes at the heart of our National Parks System, threatens in the next Congress—National Parks below national scenic standards.

Our National Parks are much more than recreational resorts and museums of unaltered nature; they are also the Exposition of the Scenic Supremacy of the United States. That is what makes them world-renowned, what sends increasing hundreds of thousands to visit them each year, what furnishes the slogan which steamship and tourist companies are using to make the United States the mecca of world travel.

The trade-mark "National Parks of America" has been soundly established. Congress, the Government, the press, the schools, and the people, in concerted action during many years, have put over its meaning of scenic supremacy for the nation; and the world, sampling the goods, has found them "as advertised." No other trade-mark has cost so much to establish and pays such dividends of business, national prestige, and patriotism.

Yet it is proposed to destroy it.

## **Destruction without Compensation**

There is only one way to destroy the value of a trade-mark. That is to destroy its meaning. Turn our National Parks System into a system of local reservations in which those of real scenic magnificence are a minority, and the trick is done. It will be very easy. Destruction usually is. Open the door of the System to just one National Park of inferior standards, and local pride in competition will do the rest. Every Congressional District will also want its own, and Congress cannot then refuse.

What then?

When Zion National Park was created in 1919, the whole world knew from the simple announcement of the fact that another stupendous scenic wonderland had been discovered. But when pleasant wooded summits, limestone caves, pretty local ravines, local mountains and gaps between mountains become National Parks, the name "Zion National Park" will mean nothing at home or abroad to those who have not already seen it.

Common business prescience will see still further. Then, there will be nothing left for Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain, Glacier, Zion, and Yosemite, if they would hold their scenic distinction, but to discard the common title and compete as individual spectacles with the Canadian Rockies and the Alps.

A great national asset, many years in the making, will then have passed. With the debasement of the trade-mark of American scenic supremacy, the world's knowledge of that supremacy will cease.

## **Ignorant and Local Minded**

The bills that threaten this national disaster will merely ask that certain regions of local charm be made National Parks. These will be honest bills, and the people behind them will merely be ignorant and local-minded.

We recall a bill of several years ago, for example, which offered the extreme top of a mountain for a National Park. It was to be a free gift of private land. The mountain was locally famous and the country around it was very lovely. The view of the surrounding country from the mountain-top was fine, but the proposed park itself contained nothing but third and fourth growth woods, a summit meadow or two and some high rocks.

These people were justly proud of their fine country, which had history as well as beauty, and they reckoned that, when the National Government built roads and cleared alleys for views from the top, they would have a right fine National Park.

Of course these people didn't know that a National Park must itself enclose scenery of sublimity. What they wanted was nation-wide fame for the beautiful region they lived in. They wanted Government advertising and appropriations, not for the Park's sake, for there was nothing specially scenic about that, but for the lovely country outside and all around it. They wanted thousands of tourists to come down to look this region over, and believed that many would build summer homes. They wanted land development, resort hotels, and a reputation like that of Asheville or the Berkshire Hills. They rejected the suggestion of a State Park. National Park advertising was far more effective, they argued, and appropriations were easier to get for National Parks than for State Parks.

All of which was natural, innocent, and very dangerous.

## **A Dangerous Session**

This project is a fair sample of what we may expect this winter. A number of similar gift-enterprise bills are confidently predicted. Killing them will be no easy task in the session preceding a national election, because politicians will hesitate to disappoint voters in any State for fear of reaction in the conventions or at the polls.

For this reason the session of Congress preceding a Presidential election is always made the occasion for introducing dubious legislation, the kind that is hard to pass at any other time. The Smith bill for a reservoir in Yellowstone passed the Senate, and the Water Power bill with National Parks in it passed both Houses, in the corresponding session of four years ago.

## **Shall We have a National Park Pork Barrel?**

There remains still another and a most important consideration. To create a precedent for national parks below the established scenic standard is to invite local competition not only for national parks but for national appropriations. If one Congressional District secures its own National Park, why not every other Congressional District in the State, or in many States? And if the First District's National Park gets, say, \$40,000 for roads, why should not all the others get the same? What are Congressmen for if not to look out for their districts?

A National Park Pork Barrel would be the final degradation!

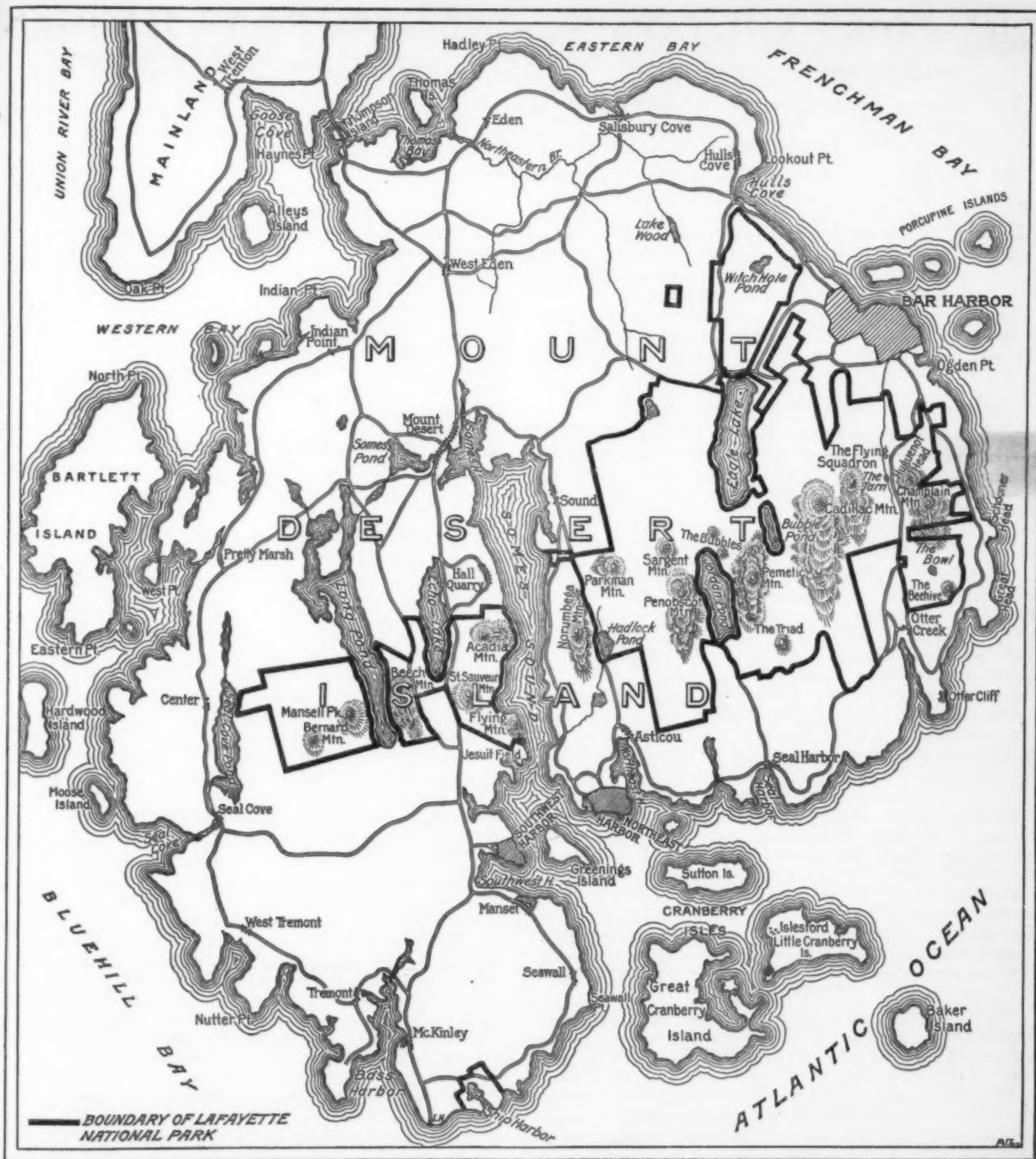
There are limits to all things, even National Parks appropriations. Will Crater Lake, for example, which greatly needs more money, get even so much as now when increasing dozens of little parks are struggling for roads?

Will congested Yosemite Valley find appropriations for its necessary outlets to the undeveloped wilderness above the rim in competition with scores of political parks?

Will Rocky Mountain then get money for the summit roads which alone will bring the people into her precipice fastnesses, and Mount Rainier and Grand Canyon receive the development which their wonder spectacles demand?

The way to prevent a flood is to stop the first leak.

One argument for these gift-enterprise parks is that we should have National Parks in the east. We should, indeed! Until our System represents also the supreme



MAP OF LAFAYETTE NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE, STANDARD BEARER FOR THE EAST. ONLY TWENTY-SEVEN SQUARE MILES IN AREA, NEVERTHELESS IT INCLUDES NATIONAL PARK ESSENTIALS IN FULL MEASURE

magnificence of our eastern landscape, it will remain incomplete. Several National Parks should represent the glory of our Appalachians; but in magnificence of included scenery, in variety, in scientific importance and in ample spaciousness, these parks must do justice to the National Parks System. None but the noblest examples, painstakingly chosen, must be admitted.

Fortunately, the nation possesses one small but quite perfect National Park in the East—Lafayette, in Maine. Only twenty-seven square miles in area, nevertheless it includes National Park essentials in full measure.

This park may well serve as our standard bearer for National Park making in the East.

Meantime, we must protect the trade-mark.

## FIVE NATIONAL MONUMENTS

This Year's new Group includes Hovenweep and the wonderful Spectacle at Bryce Canyon

Five National Monuments have been created so far in the year 1923.

### Aztec Ruin

The first of these, officially entitled Aztec Ruin, was proclaimed by President Harding in January. The name is derived, not from the Aztecs, who of course did not build this prehistoric structure, but from the town of Aztec, New Mexico, near which the ruin is situated. The pueblo originally had 500 rooms a number of which are still roofed. Part of the third story is standing.

This National Monument was the gift of the American Museum of Natural History through the generosity of Archer M. Huntington, one of its trustees, who spent five years in excavating and studying it.

### Mound City Group

The second National Monument of the year, known as the Mound City Group, is inside the Camp Sherman Military Reserve in Ohio, and consequently was placed under the administration of the War Department. It consists of several characteristic Indian mounds.

### Hovenweep

The third, the Hovenweep National Monument, contains four groups of prehistoric towers, pueblos and cliff dwellings which have been excavated and preserved by Dr. J. Walter Fewkes of the Smithsonian Institution. Two of these groups, Hackberry and Keeley, are in Colorado; the others, Cajon and Ruin Canyon, are across the border in Utah. The name means Deserted Valley.

The majority of these structures belong to a unique type not found in other National Monuments, and show some of the finest prehistoric masonry in the country.

### Pipe Spring

In May President Harding created the Pipe Spring National Monument in Arizona. Pipe Spring is the only water between Zion National Park and the north rim of the Grand Canyon, which made its preservation vitally necessary for park-to-park travel. The ranch headquarters for the Mormon Church were located there in early days. The stone building known as Windsor Castle which was built for refuge from Indians is still standing.

### Bryce Canyon

The last of the year's quintet is Bryce Canyon National Monument in Utah, one of the most richly sculptured and gorgeously colored natural areas in the world. It is a niche in the Pink Cliff of the celebrated Plateau Country north of the Grand Canyon, forming, with Zion National Park and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, a triangle of brilliant spectacles which is becoming famous among travelers. The three are now connected with motor roads, and hotels will soon be built in Zion Canyon and on the edge of Bryce Canyon to replace the present public camps. There is also a public camp at the North Rim.

The columns and minarets which rise in close ranks from the bottom of Bryce Canon are of ripe-watermelon-color and pure white, with some yellow.

The largest number of National Monuments created in a single year was seven, in 1908. Six others were created in 1909. They are usually small areas, and are preserved for historical or scientific reasons.

## KILAUEA STILL ON RAMPAGE

Lake of Everlasting Fire Again Disappears and Flaming Fountains Decorate Distant Slopes

By R. H. FINCH, *Seismologist in Hawaii National Park*

Our amazing exhibit, Halemaumau, or the Lake of Everlasting Fire of Kilauea volcano, continues its fantastic exhibition in the Hawaii National Park. Last summer it repeated, with sensational variations, its extraordinary performance of the summer of 1922.

It will be recalled that, in May of that year, the seething lava rose rapidly, nearly to the rim of the great pit, once within forty feet. Then earthquakes occurred and the molten lava, finding some subterranean vent, began to subside, first slowly, then rapidly but majestically. Despite the subsidence of several feet an hour the outlines of the islands and pools were preserved until a depth of 800 feet was reached. Finally the entire lake drained from below, leaving an empty bowl a thousand feet deep and twice as wide.

### Crashing Walls and Cascading Fire

This subsidence was a spectacle never to be forgotten. Released from the support of the lava, the crater walls gave way in sections of enormous size that went crashing to the bottom with thunderous roars plainly audible miles away. Each avalanche was followed by the rising to great heights of vast clouds of hot reddish dust that drifted away with the trade winds to cast deep shadows over the leeward slope of the mountain. Portions of the escaping lava cascaded into the old grass-grown craters of Makaopuhi and Napau, where earthquake cracks over a mile long had opened.

For a time Halemaumau was dead, save for one small glowing patch far up on one of the walls. Last autumn the lava began to rise slowly, and continued, except for two or three relapses of short duration, until the first of last July, when it reached a level 120 feet below the rim. In the spring and early summer the rise was occasionally very rapid, amounting by volume to nearly a million cubic yards on some days. At the above level the area of the lake was about 45 acres, the largest in history.

### Fantastic Spectacle of Last August

On August 25, last, some cataclysm in the mosaic of the mountain structure produced a sudden remarkable change. Hundreds of earthquake shocks preceded and accompanied a drop of the boiling surface of 600 feet.

Then the pit drained dry and the following day the escaped lava appeared on the surface through earthquake cracks eight miles away near the scene of the May, 1922, outbreak. The fire fountains of Kilauea were for a time transferred to these cracks, and great masses of the fluid lava were hurled into the tops of adjacent trees, where they cooled in draperies on the branches. At other places the forest was destroyed by flowing lava.

At last accounts Halemaumau was empty. But who can tell? Is Pele, the Goddess of the volcano, going to rest after her long and vigorous activity that began in 1918? By this time the pit may be filling again.

### BIGGEST NATIONAL PARK SEASON

This year has established a new record for the popular use of our National Parks. Of course. Every succeeding year does that. The Interior Department is collecting the figures and presently will make public announcement.



# THE PLACE OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS IN EDUCATION

*An Open Letter to a Government Official Showing the Historical Development of Nature Conservation and the Part Civilization Expects of Our National Parks*

**M**Y DEAR SIR: The word education means so many different things to so many people interested in National Parks that I find it impossible at this time to frame an inclusive answer to your question concerning the System's place in education.

Let us approach it historically.

Education itself is passing through a period of swift evolution; old standards are seriously questioned; new objectives and new methods are struggling for recognition; experiments of varied kinds are more or less successfully operating. Until common consent establishes the new directions, it will be impossible to formulate plans sufficiently definite to be called a general program.

We who see clearly the function of our National Parks System in the education of the near future belong to that very large and growing faction which claims fundamental importance for "nature study." The term is misleading. Absurdly, it is the practice to speak of Nature, meaning the earth, the things which grow out of it and the creatures which live upon it, as something quite distinct from man. But one cannot separate man from his producing and supporting environment. He is part and parcel of the earth, a stage in its history, to which his contribution is a mind enough higher than his predecessors' to perceive, faintly, the spiritual. He is an episode in an evolution which began "when God created the Heaven and the Earth." He is kin to the granite, the pine, and the ape.

## The Growth of Nature Study

The schools, founded upon a different conception, have been extremely slow in adopting nature as a fundamental study; but out of schools we have been following it for several decades with increasing enthusiasm. The back-to-the-country movement of the last quarter century gave it immense impetus. The automobile speeds its growth. The output of nature books increases yearly. Thousands of clubs and other associations have adopted nature study as a main activity. Popular magazines and even newspapers play with it in recognition of its increasing popularity.

Inevitably, out of the enthusiastic study of nature has grown the desire to protect and preserve. That was the next development. Conservation of nature's riches for the material profit of the future had long been advocated and is increasingly practised. But the word conservation has recently acquired another meaning far different from utility. Late, but not too late, we recognize man uneducated as the destroyer for gain, and conceive man educated as the preserver of what remains and the builder thereupon of unimaginable products of mind.

We should have a separate word for this newer and greater meaning of Conservation, this preservation of nature for preservation's sake. The idea is latent in every human mind.

## Conservation Becomes a National Activity

Roosevelt, the mouthpiece of his period, made conservation in both its meanings a conscious activity.

Organizations, popular and scientific, have undertaken the preservation of natural species. The bison was barely saved from extinction. Forestry is taught in schools and universities and its practise promoted by strong popular organizations in many states. Hundreds of Audubon Societies are operating through the country, and bird preserves are established by national, state and private pro-

motion; the Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada is the fruit of conservation. Societies for the study and preservation of wild flowers have united in a national league. The American Game Protective Association has bettered laws in a majority of the States. The comparatively new science of ecology is popularizing the study of natural environment. Scientific societies, great and small, are intensely promoting nature conservation. Women's clubs and teachers' associations and leagues have adopted it as a principal objective.

Naturally, governments have actively responded. Many States have established Conservation Departments whose operations cover both functions, and the movement to preserve large natural tracts under State control has resulted in an annual State Park Conference. In the National Government, the Biological Survey and the Forest Service are studying species and operating preserves.

It will be seen that the study and the conservation of nature have become a national activity. Only the schools, with characteristic conservatism, hold back, but no experienced observer of tendencies can doubt their early adoption of nature as a principal element in modern education.

## Separate Origin of National Park Conservation

Up to six or seven years ago, this movement was wholly distinct from that other current of nature conservation that, at the same time, with neither aware of the other's existence, was developing our National Parks System. It is not mere luck that national education, when it comes to need laboratories and museums of primitive nature, finds them, miraculously, ready for use.

Our National Parks System was born fifty-two years ago of the purest spirit of conservation. Awakened to premature expression by the emotions of Yellowstone's discovery, this spirit moved the explorers to ask Congress that it be set apart forever "for the use and enjoyment of the people." Succeeding Congresses conserved others upon the same model, until today we have nineteen National Parks dedicated to the conservation of nature.

It was not until 1914, however, when Stephen T. Mather undertook to organize these casual creations into a unified System, that educators began to recognize the relation of the National Parks to the great conservation movement then so far advanced. The enthusiastic demand of the schools for information at the time of the "discovery" will long be remembered in the Interior Department. And it was not until 1920, when we summoned the conservationists of the nation to resist the assaults of irrigation and power interests, that the people generally recognized the amazing fact that we possessed a superlative system of National Museums of Primitive Nature ready made and protected by Law.

That the National Parks were also an exposition of American scenic supremacy, that they were also recreational areas of high degree, counted little in the three years of sometimes bitter war that followed in Congress.

It was not the sight-seers and the pleasure-seekers who besought Congress by millions to save the National Parks. The properties were not threatened. It was the conservationist millions who fought to save the precious quality of conservation for their newly discovered possessions.

It was a war between education and ignorance, and such wars can only end in one way.

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Education  
Educator Discovers the National Parks

Thus have these separate currents of conservation, the nature study movement and the National Park establishment, merged in one stream.

The question now is what education will do with its fine system of laboratories and museums. We stand on the threshold of a new departure. Your part and mine are not to settle directions and to dictate programs, but to bear a helping hand wherever we may toward the goal we clearly see ahead. You, representing the custodians of these institutions for the whole people, and we, representing the forces of conservation and education, may help here and there the currents which already are shaping these parks for the bettering of our national life.

That we may serve intelligently, therefore, let us review briefly what already has been doing since education discovered the National Parks System. We find these activities emerging:

Professional educators east and west are expectantly studying the National Parks. School and university summer classes are visiting them in increasing numbers. Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls are convoyed by teachers of natural science. Summer schools are locating in the parks. A government nature guide system is operating in some parks and extending into others. A few lecturers heretofore content with startling audiences by the so-called "wonders" of the National Parks now offer explanations of their scientific significance. Motion picture makers garble science in their captions.

Universities now demand reels and lantern sets possessing educational purposes. School teachers everywhere seek National Park photographs to illustrate their science lessons. Organizations for game and forest preservation exploit national park opportunities. The General Federation of Women's Clubs exploit their educational possibilities with enthusiasm. The American Association for the Advancement of Science asks Canada and the United States to develop their two systems as one in the interest of science and popular education.

A suggestive beginning, indeed!

#### A National System of Laboratories and Museums

This much we can predict with certainty, that our National Parks are destined to become in the very near future the background of all nature study in our schools.

The time is not far distant when the System's popular fame will rest more securely upon its exposition of nature and America than, as now, upon its facilities for recreation, great as these are. But even recreation presently will figure importantly in the educational functioning of our National Parks. A tendency of the times is to shape recreation to educational purposes. Scenery is many times more pleasurable when understood.

#### The Part of the National Government

The part that the National Government will play in the educational destiny of our National Parks System is extremely important. You are these museums' custodians and curators.

The most important immediate need that I can suggest is an information bureau in every principal hotel and public camp in every National Park for the use of the rapid passers-through who constitute ninety per cent or more of national park visitors; bureaus are required where questioners may receive immediate and accurate answers, where tourists whose schedules allow no time to visit museums, listen to lectures and join in nature walks may ask rapid questions and consult books and maps,

where they may learn in advance of each day's sight seeing, or at its close, the scientific facts and significance of the day's spectacles.

No less a need is the instruction of the regular guides by road and trail. I know of no ignorance so impressive as that of the average men who convoy expectant visitors through our National Parks, which, to the vast majority, are schools without teachers, libraries in foreign tongues.

Congress should provide special appropriations to make our National Parks intelligible. Each National Park should have a government school for guides.

Besides these immediate and most important needs, I make you no definite suggestions now. The broader uses of the System to education and science, its utilization in the schools, its inspiration to intelligent travel and national solidarity, its service to many conservation objectives, and its mission of patriotism—all these will swiftly evolve. It is our own part to promote these as best we may, and in this busy future the National Parks Association and the National Park Service will surely find, as in the past, many opportunities for mutual helpfulness.

Sincerely yours, ROBERT STERLING YARD.

#### CALVIN COOLIDGE, CONSERVATIONIST

President Coolidge's first official act affecting the National Park System was one of conservation.

The Katmai National Monument, which includes what the terrific explosion of 1912 left of the Alaskan volcano, Katmai, together with the extraordinary Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, contained within its borders, on Katmai Bay, a coal mine long operated by John J. Folsted.

The presidential proclamation which had created the National Monument in 1918 omitted the usual clause permitting the use of previously existing valid rights within the Monument. Therefore when, under the new regulations, Mr. Folsted recently applied for a permit to continue his mining, the problem was referred to Washington.

President Coolidge had an alternative. He could insert the omitted valid rights clause, and Mr. Folsted could continue mining within the National Monument; this was the simpler way; or he could alter the boundaries of the National Monument so as to exclude the mine. Either would insure Mr. Folsted his rights; the latter would also preserve the integrity of the National Monument.

President Coolidge is a conservationist. On September 5, he cut out the mine from the Monument.

#### WESTERN SENTIMENT AT LAST DEFINED

Representative Charles E. Winter of Wyoming said, in the course of an address at the opening of the Howard Eaton Trail in Yellowstone National Park:

"Water! That greatest, most widespread, most wonderful, most blessed gift to man. Under its vitalizing contact the deserts of the West shall spring from sterility to fertility, from barrenness to fruitfulness, from desolation to habitation, from death to life. And then behold the apotheosis of the West! New havens shall be opened to the coming millions, a new earth shall be theirs. A mighty people whose blood is red and whose hearts are strong and true shall here develop an empire in plenty, peace and happiness. Water! It is the spirit of the West!

"But let me say here that, great as their utilitarian purposes might be, the lakes and waters of this and other National Parks must not be touched or altered for business or profit. American people are practically of one mind on that question. There must be no commercialism of the Park waters!"

Mr. Winter is Mr. Mondell's successor in Congress.



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